

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

**The status of the claims is as follows:**

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1-45. (Canceled)

46. (Withdrawn)

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47. (Currently Amended) A process for surface-treating a plurality of works comprising the step of surface-treating the works in a treating chamber, while rotating the works about their axes in spaced apart states, wherein said rotation of the works is conducted with the works supported by a support member rotated about its ~~axes~~ axis, said support member comprising an upper cage and a lower cage, including a plurality of compartments, so that the cages are openable and closable in a lengthwise direction.

48. (Previously Added) A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 47, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

49. (Currently Amended) A process for surface-treating a plurality of works, comprising the step of surface-treating the works in a treating chamber, while rotating them about a rotational axis in spaced-apart states, wherein said rotation of the works is carried out with the works supported by a support member rotated about a rotational axis, the support member comprising an upper cage and a lower cage including a plurality of compartments, so that the cages are openable and closable in a lengthwise direction and so that each work can be accommodated in a compartment in a manner where each work is spaced apart from one another.

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50. (Previously Added) A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 49, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

51. (Currently Amended) A process for surface-treating a plurality of works, comprising the step of surface-treating the works in a treating chamber, while rotating them about their axes and about a rotational axis in spaced-apart states, wherein said rotation of the works about the rotational axis is carried out with the works supported by a support member, the support member comprising an upper cage and a lower cage including a plurality of compartments, so that the cages are openable and closable in a lengthwise direction.

52. (Previously Added) A process for surface-treating a plurality of works according to claim 51, wherein said surface treatment is a vapor deposition on a sintered article.

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